



STATE SENATOR

VALDE GARCIA

*Serving the 22nd District*

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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INFORMATION

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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia)

Dear Veteran:

As our Armed Forces engage in the global fight against terrorism, it is especially fitting to remember the legacy of courage and sacrifice of all those who have served our country. The freedoms we cherish today are owed to generations of our nation's servicemen and women.

Whether in quiet reflection or public ceremony, this month Americans pay tribute to the lasting contributions of our nation's veterans. I am honored to join with citizens across Michigan in saying with gratitude and respect: **Thank you for your service!**

As your link to state government, I also want to share some information that may be helpful to you. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or if you need assistance with any state agency.

Sincerely,

Valde Garcia  
State Senator

## FEDERAL FUNDING AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Michigan's bioterrorism preparedness proposals to the federal government have been well received. Michigan has been awarded more in federal dollars than 90 percent of the rest of the United States. Since September 11, 2001, local public health initiatives have focused on emergency preparedness. In fiscal year 2003-2004, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) budget includes \$50,579,900 of federal money for bioterrorism preparedness. In fiscal year 2002-2003, approximately \$4.5 million was distributed to local health departments to hire Emergency Preparedness Coordinators, purchase equipment and help operate regional laboratories.

The Department of State Police budget also reflects a continued commitment to local homeland security concerns. The Department's fiscal year 2003-2004 budget allocates \$6.4 million in additional federal funds for first responder equipment and training, primarily to local units, and another \$48.6 million in anticipated federal funds for first responder grants.



MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS G. CUTLER, ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD, TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS EARLIER THIS YEAR. GENERAL CUTLER PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF MICHIGAN TROOP DEPLOYMENTS AND HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES.

## RECEIVE E-LEGISLATIVE UPDATES


If you would like to receive periodic legislative updates via email, please send your request to [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia).



## RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Vets and their families can access important information online at home or at a public library.

- ★ Information and support for National Guard families is available at [www.michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva). Click on the link to Michigan National Guard; then click on Family Support.
- ★ The Michigan Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) provides helpful information for reservists on employment and reemployment rights. Access the website at [www.mi-esgr.org](http://www.mi-esgr.org).
- ★ For a look at Veterans' Employment Services offered by the Michigan Department of Career Development, visit [www.michigan.gov/mdcd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd). Click on Veterans Services under Quick Links. Along with a link to Veterans' Employment Specialists throughout the state, the site provides extensive resources for job-seeking veterans.
- ★ For information on purchasing a State of Michigan specialty Veteran/Military Service license plate, visit [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Click on the link to Owning a Vehicle; then click on License Plate Store.
- ★ Eligible servicemen and women can purchase a special \$1 military discount hunting license upon presentation of leave papers. The license is valid for up to two weeks. For more information, visit the Department of Natural Resources website at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). Click on Hunting; then click on Licenses and Seasons.
- ★ Keep up-to-date on state homeland security issues at [www.michigan.gov/homeland](http://www.michigan.gov/homeland).
- ★ The United States Department of Veterans Affairs website is a one-stop resource on matters of interest to veterans, including information on health, education, burial and home loan benefits. Visit [www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/) or call 1-800-827-1000. Take a look at the gallery of Veterans Day posters from the past 25 years at [www.va.gov/vetsday](http://www.va.gov/vetsday).



### 9TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE HELD

Senator Garcia was pleased to sponsor this special event as the Michigan Senate opened session on Thursday, May 22, with a solemn tribute to our nation's fallen soldiers. For the ninth straight year, the special Senate Memorial Day observance honored those servicemen and women who dedicated their own lives to the defense of freedom. This year's ceremony was especially poignant as the body honored the memory of those Michigan soldiers who lost their lives in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The annual Memorial Day ceremony holds a special place in Michigan Senate tradition as legislators and citizens pause together to remember the sacrifices of America's true heroes.



THE CEREMONY OPENED WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS BY THE BRIGHTON VFW Post 4357.

CLIP & RETURN

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

As a service, my office maintains a collection of useful publications that may be of interest to you. Copies will be mailed to you by filling out the following form:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Michigan Constitution          | <input type="checkbox"/> A Citizen's Guide to State Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer Protection Resource Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> State of Michigan Transportation Map  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning for Your Peace of Mind    | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Benefits and Services        |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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